

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 1, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the Justice Department seeks a venue for the trial of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his four co-conspirators, we write to convey our deepest concerns about choosing Pittsburgh or Western Pennsylvania as a trial location. Following unified and adamant opposition from the people and elected officials in New York, we similarly oppose any attempt to relocate the trial to Pennsylvania for the very same reasons.

A domestic trial of violent international terrorists needlessly places thousands of lives in danger. It is by no means alarmist to conclude that a trial in Pennsylvania will place innocent people at risk of an attack by terrorists. We will not subject our constituents to this threat under any circumstances.

Eighty miles from Pittsburgh and the federal courthouse is the Pennsylvania field where United Flight 93 went down. The people of nearby Shanksville have witnessed and experienced the terrible trauma of a terror attack. Neither they nor anyone else in Pittsburgh or Western Pennsylvania should be subjected to the fear and anger sure to result from a civilian prosecution of an act of war in our backyard.

There is a solution and that is bringing these terrorists before a military commission at Guantanamo Bay. The Military Commissions Act expressly permits the Secretary of Defense to prosecute terrorists who attack defenseless civilians or "civilian objects."

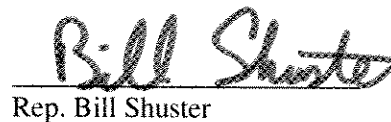
For the safety, security, and peace of mind of Pennsylvanians, we will oppose any attempt by the Justice Department to try these terrorists in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

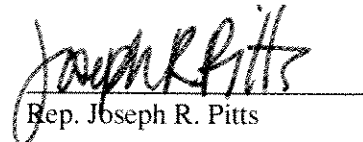
  
Rep. Tim Murphy

  
Rep. Jim Gerlach

  
Rep. Charles W. Dent

  
Rep. Bill Shuster

  
Rep. Glenn Thompson

  
Rep. Joseph R. Pitts

Cc: Attorney General Eric Holder